

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A client system ~~for efficiently downloading video content represented by at least one content file and integrating interactivity with the video content, the client system~~ comprising:
 - a mass storage device;
 - a bandwidth measurement device determining the bandwidth of a network connection over which a content file is downloaded;
 - a download manager retrieving and storing in the mass storage device a portion of a first file comprising video content and a second file comprising an interactive element, the size of the portion of the first file responsive to the bandwidth determination made by the bandwidth measurement device; and
 - a presentation manager (i) retrieving the portion of the first file from mass storage, (ii) displaying with a standard media player application video content represented by the portion of the first file, (iii) retrieving the second file from mass storage, and (iv) displaying with a standard media player application the interactive element semi-transparently over the video content,wherein the download manager retrieves the remainder of the first file in response to the presentation manager displaying the retrieved portion of the first file.
2. (Original) The client system of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device comprises a redundant array of independent disks.
3. (Original) The client system of claim 1 wherein the mass storage device comprises a network storage solution.

4. (Original) The client system of claim 1 wherein the bandwidth measurement device comprises a timer.
5. (Original) The client system of claim 1 wherein the download manager and the bandwidth measurement device comprise a single process.
6. (Original) The client system of claim 1 wherein the download manager comprises a thread process.
7. (Original) The client system of claim 1 wherein the download manager comprises one of the group consisting of an ActiveX control and a JAVA applet.
8. (Original) The client system of claim 1 wherein the presentation manager comprises a threaded process.
9. (Original) The client system of claim 1 wherein the presentation manager comprises a Windows Media Player application.
10. (Currently amended) ~~A method for efficiently downloading video content including at least one content file and integrating interactivity with the video content, the method comprising the steps of:~~
 - (a) retrieving a first content file;
 - (b) terminating retrieval of the first content file before the entire content file is retrieved;
 - (c) storing the retrieved portion of the first content file in a mass storage device;
 - (d) displaying with a standard media player application content represented by the portion of the first content file;
 - (e) retrieving a second file from mass storage representing an interactive element;

(f) displaying with a standard media player application semi-transparently over the displayed video content an interactive element represented by the second file; and

(g) retrieving, in response to step (d), the remainder of the first content file.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein step (b) comprises:

(b-a) determining the bandwidth of a network connection over which the content file is retrieved; and

(b-b) terminating retrieval of the content file before the entire content file is retrieved, the termination responsive to the bandwidth determination made in step (b-a).

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein step (a) comprises retrieving from a peer-to-peer network a content file representing video content.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein step (a) comprises retrieving from a multicast network a content file representing video content.

14. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of receiving user input via the displayed interactive element.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein step (d) and step (g) occur substantially concurrently.

16. (Original) The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of displaying with a standard media player application content represented by the remainder of the first content file.

17. (Original) An article of manufacture having embodied thereon computer-readable program means for efficiently downloading video content and integrating interactivity with the video content, the article of manufacture comprising:

computer-readable program means for retrieving a first content file;

computer-readable program means for terminating retrieval of the first content file before the entire content file is retrieved;

computer-readable program means for storing the retrieved portion of the first content file in a mass storage device;

computer-readable program means for displaying with a standard media player application content represented by the portion of the first content file;

computer-readable program means for retrieving a second file from mass storage representing an interactive element;

computer-readable program means for displaying with a standard media player application semi-transparently over the displayed video content an interactive element represented by the second file; and

computer-readable program means for retrieving the remainder of the first content file.